

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: **FINANCE**

DATE: **JULY 11, 2012**

Committee Members Present:

Supervisors Thomas
 Taylor
 Sokol
 Monroe
 Bentley
 Wood
 Kenny
 Merlino
 Conover

Others Present:

Daniel G. Stec, Chairman of the Board
Paul Dusek, County Administrator
Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board
Kevin Geraghty, Budget Officer
Supervisor Mason
Supervisor Strainer
Supervisor Westcott
Mike Swan, County Treasurer
Jeffery Tennyson, Superintendent, Public Works
Dr. Ron Heacock, President, SUNY Adirondack
Bill Long, Vice President of Administrative
Services
Don Lehman, *The Post Star*
Nicole Livingston, Second Deputy Clerk

Mr. Thomas called the meeting of the Finance Committee to order at 10:00 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2012 Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Copies of the Finance Agenda were provided to the Committee members, and a copy of same is on file with the minutes.

Commencing the Action Agenda review, Mr. Thomas stated Item 1 were the requests for Transfer of Funds which were attached for Committee approval. He noted that Supervisory Committee approval had been obtained as necessary.

Motion was made by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Monroe and carried unanimously to approve Item 1 as outlined above. The necessary resolution was authorized for the next Board meeting.

Mr. Thomas advised Items 2A and B were referrals from the Budget Committee. Item 2A, he said, was a request to amend the 2012 County budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$20,344.10 to reflect interest and earnings for the Computerization Effort Capital Project. Mr. Thomas stated Item 2B was a request to increase Capital Project No. H108.9550 280 Computerization Effort in the amount of \$36,000 to begin the Technology Replacement Plan as part of the Multi-Year Financial Plan, with the source of funding to be a Contingent Fund transfer.

Motion was made by Mr. Kenny and seconded by Mrs. Wood to approve Items 2A and B as presented.

In response to an inquiry regarding the balance in the Contingent Fund, Paul Dusek, County Administrator, estimated \$125,000 was available and Mr. Thomas countered he thought the balance was approximately \$135,000.

Mr. Thomas called the question and the motion was carried unanimously to approve Items 2A and B as outlined above. The necessary resolutions were authorized for the next Board meeting.

Mr. Thomas noted Item 3 was a referral from the Community College Committee, requesting approval of the tentative 2012-2013 Budget for SUNY Adirondack and setting a Public Hearing for same.

Motion was made by Mrs. Wood and seconded by Mr. Bentley to approve the request as presented.

Mr. Thomas acknowledged that the tentative Budget was reviewed thoroughly at the last Community College Committee meeting. Mr. Monroe requested information relative to the percentage increase for this year.

Chairman Stec entered the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

Dr. Ron Heacock, President of SUNY Adirondack, reported the requested increase for this year was 1.5%. He added that due to an increase in the County's share of enrollment, the requested amount for Warren County was \$1,844,538, an increase of \$63,212; and \$1,261,620 for Washington County, a decrease of \$17,308. He noted that they were applying \$195,256 from the College's Fund Balance, which would be at 6% of the total budget for next year. Dr. Heacock advised that the budget had increased this year because of the expansion of the Wilton Facility which increased their rental aid, as well as the hiring of two additional staff. He concluded the overall increase to the budget was 4%.

Following discussion, Mr. Thomas called the question and the motion was carried unanimously to approve Item 3 as outlined above. The necessary resolution was authorized for the next Board meeting.

Mr. Thomas asserted Items 4A and B were referrals from the Health Services Committee, Health Services. Item 4A, he said, was a request to amend the 2012 County budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$11,135 to reflect revenues received for vehicles sold at auction and insurance recovery money. He added Item 4B was a request to amend the 2012 County budget

to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$22,300 to reflect the addition of revenues/costs related to the new 2012 grant to year end.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to approve Items 4A and B as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next Board meeting.

Mr. Thomas advised Item 5 was a referral from the Human Services Committee, Office for the Aging, requesting to amend the 2012 County budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$5,607 to fully expend carry-over funds.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mrs. Wood and carried unanimously to approve Item 5 as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next Board meeting.

Mr. Thomas stated Items 6A and B were referrals from the Public Safety Committee, Sheriff & Communications. Item 6A, he said, was a request to extend an existing agreement with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for fuel for the Sheriff's Marine Patrol, commencing May 1, 2012 and terminating April 30, 2014.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover and seconded by Mrs. Wood to approve the request as presented.

Mr. Taylor asked if there was a decrease in cost for the agreement compared to last year and Mrs. Wood replied she believed there was no change in the terms and this would just extend the agreement.

Mr. Thomas called the question and the motion was carried unanimously to approve Item 6A as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next Board meeting.

Mr. Thomas apprised Item 6B was a request for a source of funding for an amount of \$22,000 for repairs to the communications tower located at the Municipal Center caused by a lightning strike on May 29, 2012, pending insurance recoveries.

Mr. Monroe questioned if the funding could be expended from the Sheriff's budget until the insurance recoveries were received. Mr. Dusek recommended a Contingent Fund transfer to cover the costs at this time.

Motion was made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to approve Item 6B as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next Board meeting.

Mr. Thomas remarked that Items 7A and B were referrals from the Public Works Committee, DPW. Item 7A, he stated, was a request to increase Capital Project No. H199.9550 280 Corinth Road Reconstruction Project in the amount of \$694,496.18 to include the monies/funding from the Town of Queensbury and National Grid into the project.

Motion was made by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mrs. Wood and carried unanimously to approve Item 7A as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next Board meeting.

Mr. Thomas noted Items 7B was a request to increase Capital Project No. H299.9550 280 Bridge Rehabilitation Projects in the amount of \$17,476.68 to cover the change order for discovered conditions and extended rental of temporary traffic signals, with the source of funding to be a transfer from Capital Project No. H331.9550 280 County Bridge Projects.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley and seconded by Mr. Sokol to approve the request as presented.

Mr. Kenny questioned if it would be more beneficial for the County to own the rental equipment and Jeffery Tennyson, Superintendent of Public Works, replied it would be difficult to justify the purchase of signals because the need for such was unique to bridge projects and only needed a couple times a year; however, he said, he could look into the cost to purchase the equipment.

Mr. Thomas called the question and the motion was carried unanimously to approve Item 7B as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next Board meeting.

Mr. Thomas remarked Items 8A through C were referrals from the Social Services Committee, Youth Bureau. Item 8A, he said, was a request to amend the 2012 County budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$500 to reflect receipt of Junior Tennis Foundation grant. He noted Item 8B was a request to amend the 2012 County budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$278 to reflect receipt of State Special Delinquency Prevention funds. He added Item 8C was a request to amend the 2012 County budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$5,500 to reflect receipt of State funds for youth programs.

Motion was made by Mr. Kenny, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to approve Items 8A through C as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next Board meeting.

Mr. Thomas apprised Item 9 was a request for opinion by the U.S. Board of Geographic Names to apply the name of Keil Mountain to an unnamed summit in the Town of Horicon.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Monroe and carried unanimously to approve Item 9 as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next Board meeting.

Mr. Thomas announced Item 10 was for Finance Committee action which was required on the following items as approved by the Personnel Committee: Item Nos. 1B, 2A, 2B and 3A.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Conover and carried by majority vote, with Mr. Kenny voting in opposition to Item 2B, to approve Item 10 as outlined above.

Mr. Thomas referred to Item IV. Topics to be reported on/discussions/updates and noted Item 1 was the response to the Budget Analysis Report from the County Treasurer as prepared by the County Administrator, which would be emailed when completed.

Mr. Thomas directed the Committee members to the Pending Items and remarked Item 1 was for discussion on the forestry survey that was distributed at the June 6, 2012 meeting. He reminded the Committee members of the discussion to possibly log the County-owned property located across the street from the Municipal Center.

Mr. Dusek referred to the survey included in the Agenda packets and noted the report from 2007 pertained to a number of County-owned parcels, including the aforementioned parcel located across the street from the Municipal Center. He pointed out that the report stated that a harvest could possibly be conducted but would be a challenge and the small size of the parcel limited the number of loggers that would be interested. He mentioned that the report advised that the parcel had been harvested in the past and should be re-evaluated in ten years time.

Mr. Taylor opined the logging of the parcel could make the property more saleable. Mr. Dusek asserted that the property had been put up for bid a few times over the past couple of years and the Supervisors had been disappointed with the bids that were received. He added that recently there had been some interest expressed in the property. Mr. Dusek expounded that the problem with putting the property out to bid was that it did not reach the intended market; however, he said, a Real Estate Broker could do the necessary work to get the property exposed to the right types of businesses. He suggested a combined approach, such as hiring a Real Estate Agent at a set fee and they would market the property to businesses, followed by a bid to

conclude the process. He noted that a Real Estate Agent could also provide the professional advice as to whether or not the property would be more valuable if it were logged.

Mike Swan, County Treasurer, apprised that the property was marketed as commercial property and therefore he felt the County should log the property prior to selling it in order to profit from the sale of timber.

Mr. Strainer mentioned the possibility of interviewing Realtors and requesting a market analysis of the property. He further stated that a high commercial selling Realtor that was familiar with dealing with large buyers would be best for the County. Mr. Monroe suggested having a forester re-evaluate the property and get a recommendation on a selective cut, as opposed to a clear cut, prior to making any decisions.

Mr. Dusek recommended that he prepare an RFP (Request for Proposals) and solicit proposals from as many Realtors as possible, followed by interviews and a selection.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. Monroe and carried unanimously to authorize the preparation of an RFP for Realtor services, and to obtain a forester to re-evaluate the property and provide an opinion on such.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion made by Mr. Sokol and seconded by Mr. Bentley, Mr. Thomas adjourned the meeting at 10:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Livingston, Second Deputy Clerk